

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, March 18, 2002

Present: Corey, Jessen, Johnson, Mehigh, Ockerman, Runyan, Sanderson.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Chief Scott Johnson, Fire Chief; Judy Horton; Larry LeCureux; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Janeene Cenkush; Jan Scott; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Clark Long; Helen Granger, The Independent; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Jerry Davis; Brian Holmberg; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF LIFE SAVING AWARD BY CORUNNA POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Mark Hetfield presented Brian Holmberg with a Life Saving Award for saving Jerry Davis from the Shiawassee River.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Ockerman moved, Runyan seconded to approve the agenda by changing Item No. 6 from Consider Appointment of Robert Buschman to the Zoning Board of Appeals to Consider Appointment of Robert Buschman or Debra Hoffman to the Zoning Board of Appeals and adding Item No. 6A) Consider Appointment of Debra Hoffman to the Board of Review, Item No. 11) Consider Appointment to Ambulance Board and Item No. 12) Discussion of Operations Committee Recommendation to Extend the Fire Agreement with Caledonia Township.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Ockerman moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer reviewed his calendar and manager's report with council and with those in the audience.

PRESENTATION BY HYDRO-DESIGNS – CROSS CONNECTION UPDATE: Tim Crawford introduced Barry Walter, Dave Cardinal, and Ed Auferoth from Hydro-Designs. Mr. Walter gave the city council a progress report on the city's cross connection program. He advised the city has a total of 138 facilities that require some type of inspection by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Drinking Water Radiological Protection Division, and these facilities are usually commercial, industrial or institutional facilities. He further advised the city has 128 facilities that are in compliance. Councilperson Ockerman asked what would happen if someone did not want to cooperate with the inspection. Mr. Walter advised the city would make that call, and the ultimate call would be to discontinue the water to the facility. Councilperson Ockerman asked if Hydro-Designs was having any trouble with the inspections. Mr. Walter advised no, the city's numbers are very reflective of that. He further advised out of the 42 cities his company does, the City of Corunna is tops in compliance. Mr. Walter thanked Mr. Crawford for doing an outstanding job. Mr. Walter stated he has spoken to Mr. Crawford about identifying residential properties that have underground sprinkler systems, which are required to have a testable backflow prevention device. Mr. Walter further stated there might be some private wells within the city limits that are a secondary water source, which should also be addressed. He also stated there was some talk about inspecting above ground and underground swimming pools. Everybody puts a hose in the pool to fill it up, and the most common cross connection in the world is a hose submerged into water. Mr. Walter advised underground pools have gotten a little more sophisticated, and have some high tech chemical feed systems that hook directly into the city water system. Some of the chemicals could pollute the city's water system. He further advised the residential inspection frequency would be once every five years. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the state was pressuring the city to test these systems. Mr. Walter advised the state regulation states if there is an existing backflow prevention device, then the device should be tested on an annual basis. He further advised if the city knows the device is there, and it is not tested and something happens, then the city would be fined. He also advised the city's water system is susceptible to any wells that are not properly isolated for lawn sprinkler systems. Mr. Walter stated he is recommending that the city go in this direction. Councilperson Ockerman asked what the cost factor was. Mr. Walter advised it would not cost the city anything extra. Mayor Corey asked how the city could identify the homes that have a backup well. Mr. Walter advised that is something that he would have to check into. One of the cities he has worked with has used the meter reader to check a particular residence. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Walter if he was working with the City of Owosso. Mr. Walter advised no. Mayor Corey stated he has some concerns since the city receives its water from the City of Owosso. Mr. Walter stated the City of Owosso might have a good program, but he would recommend doing some investigation to find out what their program is. If something does happen in the City of Owosso, it could affect the City of Corunna. He further stated a lot of people do not realize backflow problems happen on a daily basis, but if there are corrective devices in place, then the impact of this problem will be minimized. He also stated it has been a pleasure to work in the City of Corunna. Mayor Corey thanked Mr. Walter for his report.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 03-18-02-01 SUPPORTING THE I-69/I-75 INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY CONCEPT PLAN: Mayor Corey read resolution 03-18-02-01. Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE I-69 INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION  
STUDY CONCEPT PLAN  
03-18-02-01**

**WHEREAS,** The I-69/I-75 Intermodal Transportation Study has been developed in cooperation with public and private sector interests in Genesee, Lapeer, Saginaw, Shiawassee and St. Clair counties, and;

**WHEREAS,** This region of counties has a wealth of transportation infrastructure including surface, rail, air, and deep water ports, and;

**WHEREAS,** The I-69/I-75 Intermodal Transportation Study includes a freight distribution concept plan for the five-county region whereby the communities in the region would enjoy increased economic development opportunities by utilizing existing and improved transportation infrastructure, and;

**WHEREAS,** The concept plan calls for a “hub and spoke” distribution plan that would involve satellite centers and major distribution hubs, and;

**WHEREAS,** The concept plan recognizes the need for private sector investment to validate governmental support and investment, and;

**WHEREAS,** The I-69/I-75 Intermodal Transportation Study was developed with the opportunity for public input and comment as specified in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** it is the finding by the City of Corunna that the concepts introduced in the I-69/I-75 Intermodal Transportation Study are consistent with the goals and visions for the region, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City of Corunna supports the I-69/I-75 Intermodal Transportation Study, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City of Corunna will continue to work in partnership with the five county region to begin implementing the concept.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Jessen, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 03-18-02-02 ADOPTING POVERTY TAX EXEMPTION

GUIDELINES: Mayor Corey read resolution 03-18-02-02. Ockerman moved, Johnson seconded to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING POVERTY GUIDELINES**  
**03-18-02-02**

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is within the purview of the city council, and;

**WHEREAS**, the homestead of persons who, in the judgement of the Assessor and the Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under Public Act 390, 1994(MCL 211.7u), and;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to PA 390, 1994 the City of Corunna, Shiawassee County, adopts the following guidelines for the Assessor and Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the Assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 3) Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested.
- 4) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if requested.
- 5) Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.
- 6) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of Board of Review.
- 7) Any additional eligibility requirements as determined by the Corunna City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these are communicated in writing to the claimant.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Jessen, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF GRINDING/CHIPPING AND REMOVAL OF CITY BRUSH PILE:

Mr. Sawyer advised the city is in dire need of getting the brush, branches and leaves out of the drop off center since the area is running out of space. He further advised he made a few phone calls today and received the name of two other companies that might be interested in bidding on this item including the name of a company from the Detroit area that does this type of work as part of a composting business. Mayor Corey asked if the city would no longer be burning. Mr. Sawyer advised the Department of Natural Resources has prohibited the city from burning the area. Mayor Corey asked how long it has been since the brush was burned or removed from the area. Mr. Crawford advised two years ago. Mayor Corey asked if the city was going to continue to allow brush to be put there, and if the city is, then will this be an annual or bi-annual expense. Mr. Sawyer advised a composting operation is something the city should look closely at. He further advised \$3,500 or \$4,000 a year can get to be expensive over a period of time. Mayor Corey advised composting was looked at about seven years ago, and it was very expensive, but this might be something worthwhile to look into. Councilperson Mehig stated there are enough people who want the wood chips, and it would not take long to move the pile away. This process needs to be looked at instead of paying someone to haul away the wood chips. He further stated he was sure there are enough residents or non-residents that would haul away the wood chips. Mayor Corey asked if the city would chip the brush or hire someone to do the work. Councilperson Mehig advised the city would have to hire someone to chip the brush. Mayor Corey asked if the company would rather haul away the wood chips since they might be able to use them. Councilperson Ockerman advised the city council was well into discussion without a motion on the table. Ockerman moved, Mehig seconded to approve the chipping/grinding and removal of brush from the city yard and authorize the City Manager to solicit bids and execute the agreement to be paid for from line item 101-441-818.000. Mr. Crawford advised a lot of the brush that is in the area would not make good wood chips.

Councilperson Sanderson asked if there was any chance that some of the wood chips could be used to fill in the holes in the area or include fixing the road in the agreement so there would not be big ruts. Mr. Sawyer advised the millings from the streetscape were put in the area and were swallowed up like quick sand. Councilperson Sanderson asked if the area could be policed better. He has seen people drive to the area from Owosso with a truckload of stuff. Councilperson Runyan suggested waiting to see what the other bids come in at. Councilperson Ockerman advised the motion authorizes the city manager to solicit bids.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Ockerman, Mehig, Runyan, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT BUSCHMAN OR DEBRA HOFFMAN TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

Ockerman moved, Mehig seconded to appoint Debra Hoffman to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to begin upon the taking of the Oath of Office and continuing indefinitely to serve at the pleasure of the council. Councilperson Ockerman asked when Mr. Buschman's term expired. Mr. Sawyer advised December 31, 2001.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehigh.  
No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF DEBRA HOFFMAN TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW:

Ockerman moved, Jessen seconded to appoint Debra Hoffman to the Board of Review.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to amend the motion to appoint Debra Hoffman to the Board of Review with a term to take effect upon being sworn in and continuing until December 31, 2003.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Jessen, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER WAIVING \$100.00 SPECIAL EVENTS FEE FOR FRENCH VOYAGER

ENCAMPMENT MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> AND MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2002: Mehigh moved, Jessen seconded to approve waiving the \$100.00 Special Events fee for the French Voyager Encampment May 29<sup>th</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER WAIVING \$50.00 STU-COUTTS RENTAL FEE FOR SHIAWASSEE CROP WALK

MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2002: Ockerman moved, Sanderson seconded to approve waiving the \$50.00 Stu Coutts rental fee for the Shiawassee County Crop Walk May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Jessen, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET DATES FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REVENUE/EXPENDITURE BUDGET

WORKSHOPS: Councilperson Ockerman suggested using Mondays. Mr. Sawyer suggested the following budget workshop dates: April 22 at 6 p.m. instead of the Planning and Policy Committee meeting; April 29 at 6 p.m. instead of the Committee of the Whole meeting; May 13 at 6 p.m. instead of the Operations Committee meeting. Mr. Sawyer advised the budget has to be adopted by the city council on May 20. Mayor Corey suggested selecting some alternate dates in case they are needed. Mr. Sawyer suggested the following alternate dates: April 24 at the community center at 6 p.m.; May 1 at city hall at 6 p.m.; May 8 at city hall at 6 p.m.; and May 15 at the community center at 6 p.m. Mr. Sawyer stated he would like to have one budget work session prior to council receiving the

recommendation from him in order to go over the city's revenues. Mayor Corey asked if Mr. Sawyer was looking at May 8 or May 10. Mr. Sawyer advised yes.

**CONSIDER SETTING DATE FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**WORKSHOP:** Mayor Corey asked if this was something that should be in conjunction with the budget workshop or postponed until after the budget workshop. Mr. Sawyer advised a lot of the dates that were just set are question marks. The revenue budget workshop is the most critical meeting that the city council needs to have at this point. He further advised this workshop could be slid into one of the tentative dates.

**CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO AMBULANCE BOARD:** Mayor Corey advised this

appointment was a mayoral recommendation, and it was his recommendation to appoint Gene Sanderson to the ambulance board. Mehig moved, Jessen seconded to appoint Gene Sanderson as the council representative to the ambulance board to replace Bob Ockerman who resigned. Councilperson Ockerman stated he was under the belief that he and Councilperson Johnson should not vote on this item. Mayor Corey advised a motion was needed to allow Councilpersons Ockerman and Johnson to withdraw from participating and voting on this issue. Councilperson Johnson advised then it was a conflict when she voted to appoint Homer Bennett. Mr. Sawyer stated in order to comply with the conflict of interest statute, he recommended that both Councilpersons Ockerman and Johnson individually state their reasons for conflict then a motion should be made to allow them to abstain from all current and future ambulance issues as long as the conflict exists so council does not have to do this every time an issue comes up. Councilperson Ockerman advised his reason was that he is currently employed by the ambulance service on a part-time basis so the conflict might be voting on a person who might be his boss. Councilperson Johnson stated that would also be her reason because she is also employed by the ambulance service. Councilperson Mehig stated he could understand Councilperson Ockerman's reason for not voting because he is directly affected as the operations manager, but Councilperson Johnson should be part of the voting procedure because she is not directly affected since she works for Councilperson Ockerman. Councilperson Mehig further stated there would only be four councilpeople voting and one dissention can control the council because one person can make a difference. Councilperson Ockerman asked council if they agreed or disagreed that he should be a part of the discussion before he said anything more. Mayor Corey stated he thought a motion was needed. Mehig moved, Sanderson seconded to allow Councilperson Ockerman to be a part of the discussion about the voting procedure. Motion died for lack of roll call. Councilperson Runyan asked the city manager about the legality of where the city council was going. Mr. Sawyer advised the charter states if a person has a financial interest then the person shall not vote. If a councilperson abstains because they could have a financial interest then no vote needs to be taken by the city council since the charter states the person shall not vote. He further advised the charter also states a unanimous consent of the council is required for the abstention to take place for anything else that is not a financial issue. Since there are a lot of gray areas of what is or is not financial, the safest bet would be to allow someone to abstain from voting if the person asks to abstain. Mayor Corey stated he read the attorney general's opinion and it is really confusing. He felt the council was setting itself up for a huge problem down the road because differences may occur and suggested seeking some legal advice on this whole issue. Councilperson Ockerman concurred with what Mayor Corey stated and advised he would just abstain and not vote.

Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to allow Councilperson Bob Ockerman to abstain on all ambulance issues, voting and participation.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to allow Councilperson Dawn Johnson to abstain on all ambulance issues, voting and participation. Councilperson Mehigh advised Councilperson Johnson that he would go along with this issue today, but he would like a legal opinion because she works for Mr. Ockerman and like the mayor stated it gets pretty muddy and gray. Councilperson Mehigh further advised he does not like four councilpersons making decisions when one could actually make the decision. If one councilperson votes the other way, there will be a three to one vote, which automatically kills the issue.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Corey advised the motion on the floor is to appoint Mr. Sanderson to the ambulance board.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Runyan, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mehigh moved, Jessen seconded to request the city manager to get a legal opinion on the participation and voting of both Councilpersons Johnson and Ockerman on issues relating to the ambulance. Councilperson Ockerman advised he would not vote anyway no matter what the attorney says so there should not be any trouble. He feels the city is spending money that it does not need to spend because he will not vote. Councilperson Mehigh stated the city has two councilpersons abstaining from voting and agreed that Councilperson Ockerman should not vote, but since the gray area involves Councilperson Johnson, Councilperson Mehigh advised he felt a legal opinion is needed. Mayor Corey stated Councilperson Johnson is working for Councilperson Ockerman and this makes this issue a little more difficult. Councilperson Runyan asked if council wanted to send the issue to the Michigan Municipal League. Mayor Corey asked if the Michigan Municipal League offer legal opinions. Mr. Sawyer advised no, but he would draft a pretty good memo to the city attorney on this. The difficult part is formulating the questions for the city attorney because these areas vary by case to case. He further advised there are attorney general opinion's that are very specific on case-by-case issues. He also advised Mr. Burlingame tends to be somewhat vague on things because Mr. Burlingame's job is to defend the city if the city is challenged. Mayor Corey advised the attorney general's opinions are based on a specific case that should not be applied to other cases. He further advised he feels the city's attorney should give the city a clear opinion of how the city should act, and the city council should go by that opinion. Councilperson Johnson stated the fire department affects her also.



Mayor Corey asked Councilperson Johnson if she was a firefighter. Councilperson Johnson advised no, but her husband is. Councilperson Ockerman stated the direct question he wants answered is if there is a conflict of interest if he is abstaining on all ambulance issues.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Jessen, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO EXTEND THE FIRE AGREEMENT WITH CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP:

Councilperson Ockerman advised the fire agreement expired on December 31, 2001, and the city needs to negotiate a new agreement. The operations committee has suggested continuing the contract until June 30, 2002. Mayor Corey asked if council wanted to extend the contract a couple of months longer. Councilperson Mehigh stated he thought the discussion was to extend the contract until the end of the year. Mr. Sawyer advised the committee has recommended extending the contract for a minimum of six months to a maximum of one year. Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to extend the fire agreement as it stands for a minimum of at least 06-30-02 to a maximum of 12-31-02.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Jessen, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehigh gave a brief update on the ambulance service. He reported things are looking much better on what is owed to the state and federal government. Councilperson Mehigh advised the operations manager is working with Lansing-Mason to see what is really owed to them. He further advised overall, things look pretty positive.

Councilperson Ockerman advised the ambulance service made its payroll without using any of the municipalities' money. He further advised all of the bills have been paid. He also advised the government is starting to take some of the money from the lock box, but they are applying the money to the amount that is owed. Councilperson Ockerman stated the accountant found another \$7,000 sitting in a fund for taxes that has not been drawn upon. He further stated the ambulance service was collecting \$100 out of every bill for \$500 or \$550, which concerned him, but when he contacted Medicare he found out the ambulance

service is being paid for a Basic Life Support service instead of an Advanced Life Support service. Medicare has agreed to pay the ambulance service back retroactive. He also stated almost \$100,000 was billed for the month of February, and as of today, there is \$17,000 in the bank.

Councilperson Runyan advised the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency's audit shows the agency is in the black for the first time since the agency was started. He further advised the agency has signed a contract with the Regional Education Service District to build a joint bus garage. Mayor Corey asked what the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency's

share of the costs would be. Councilperson Runyan advised 50 percent. Mayor Corey asked where the agency would get the money since they barely hit the black. Councilperson Runyan advised the transportation agency would be using the grant it has coming for its 50 percent share. He further advised the grant is approximately \$325,000 to \$400,000, and the transportation agency is hoping for a \$400,000 grant. Mayor Corey asked what the total amount was that the transportation agency was going to pay the Regional Education Service District. Councilperson Runyan advised he believes the cost of the building is around \$1,000,000, and the transportation agency's cost would be about \$500,000. Mayor Corey asked if this would be done without attempting to secure millage. Councilperson Runyan advised yes.

Councilperson Sanderson reported the Forest Committee is in good shape.

Mayor Corey asked Mr. Sawyer if he could put regular times on the agenda. Mr. Sawyer advised he could. Mayor Corey stated a couple of council meetings ago, he asked about the water and sewer rates. After looking through the minutes, it looks like the city is okay through 2000, but in the 2001 minutes, he found that all of the rates were crossed off. He further stated he was concerned that the city might be charging rates higher than they should be, and the rates should revert back to the 1993 rates. He also stated he wants the city council to take a look at the rates because the city council needs to figure out what to do if the rates are not exactly proper. Mayor Corey advised in the past, the mayor or a councilperson would solidify the relationship between the city and school system. The city used to do resolutions for teams who had outstanding regionals. He further advised there used to be communication between the city and the school system. The city might be doing this, and he might not be aware of it, but if not, he thought it might be helpful to have a member of the city council be more in touch with the school system. Councilperson Mehig asked if a resolution was needed to appoint the mayor to that position. Mayor Corey advised he would be the person if council wanted him to do it. He further advised the fireworks have the support of the Argus Press and Meijers. He also advised he heard through the grapevine that there will be an appreciation dinner in May, but he would like to see council start the appreciation dinner backup at Christmas time. He thought this would be an appropriate time of the year to have a dinner and asked council if they were interested in setting a date in order to get a place for this Christmas. Councilperson Ockerman stated he did not have a problem if an appreciation dinner is not being planned, but he does not want to have two dinners this year. Mayor Corey stated if a dinner is held in May, the city will never get back to Christmas. Councilperson Ockerman stated Mayor Corey's idea was not bad nor did he disagree with the idea, but suggested having the dinner in 2003 if something has already been planned this year and cannot be changed. If this is not the case and everybody is agreeable to having the dinner in December, then he did not have a problem because he rather enjoyed the dinner. Mayor Corey asked council if they wanted to look at holding the dinner at Christmas of 2003. Councilperson Ockerman advised yes. Mayor Corey stated if the city really wants to do this, then the city needs to reserve a place now. Councilperson Mehig asked what was wrong with having two dinners in one year. If the city has two dinners in one year, then so be it. Councilperson Runyan stated he thought the city council had decided that the city was not going to have Christmas parties anymore. He further stated the past parties have been held at the ZCJB hall and he has all of the contacts. Mayor Corey stated maybe the reason the city stopped having the Christmas

parties was because the city used to pay for the tickets, but he was only suggesting changing the time of the year. People would still have to pay for their own dinner and maybe the city would be able to provide the entertainment without paying for the actual dinners.

Councilperson Ockerman stated he thought it was a great idea. Councilperson Sanderson stated some families are getting so big that it takes the whole month of December to have Christmas so the city might not get a very big turnout. Mayor Corey stated the city has always had good participation in the past. Councilperson Sanderson stated things have changed over the last few years. Mayor Corey advised if the city waits until May there is a possibility that the city would not be able to get a date for 2002. He further advised council needs to decide if the city wants to have a dinner this coming December. Councilperson Runyan stated if the city does a recognition program for the people who volunteer, he believes the costs could be cut by one-third because the list of the people who were invited was a mile and a half long. Mayor Corey advised he believes everyone in the community should be invited. If there are a certain number of seats, then it would be first come first serve. He further advised if there is a Christmas party, then the volunteers should be recognized by as many members of the community that choose to come. Councilperson Ockerman asked Ms. Washburn what was being planned now. Ms. Washburn advised the dinner is May 2. Councilperson Ockerman stated since the date has been set then a show of hands should be taken at the May 2 dinner to see who wants to do what at that meeting. He further stated a dinner could not be held in December because the city might not get a hall. Mayor Corey advised if the city cannot get a hall, then the question has been answered, but if the city can get a hall, the city council should discuss what council wants to do.

Councilperson Ockerman stated he was proposing to wait until the May 2 dinner, and if the majority of the people want to have a dinner in December of 2003 then the city should do it. Councilperson Mehig suggested having Ms. Washburn check with GiGi's for a date in the middle of the week. He stated he was sure the weekends would be tied up, but maybe Ms. Washburn can do some footwork to check what is going on. Ms. Washburn stated the invitations have not gone out yet so she does not really know who is or is not coming. She further stated the city would not have to pay to rent the hall if the dinner is going to be at GiGi's. Mayor Corey stated he did not want his suggestion to interfere with what is being done, but if the city wants to get the dinner back into the Christmas time, then it needs to be done this Christmas if possible. If not, then work on it for Christmas 2003. Ockerman moved, Johnson seconded to ask Keith and Diane Johnson if it is possible to hold the appreciation dinner in early December of this year instead of May without hurting anyone's feelings, and if this is a problem and it is impossible, then the city should back off and continue with the plans.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen.

No: Mehig.

Motion CARRIED

Councilperson Sanderson stated he talked to two different people and these people are under the impression that the only people who ride the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency buses are crippled people. People do not understand how they can get a bus, and they need to be told that anybody can use a bus.

ADJOURN: Mehigh moved, Jessen seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Ockerman, Mehigh, Runyan, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:30 p.m.

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STEPHEN COREY, MAYOR

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YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK